

• Abroad •

Tokyo. The best qualified observers are convinced that the present state of affairs cannot continue in Japan; and that what the nation faces is not a mere *crise de gouvernement* but a *crise de régime*. The grotesque turmoil, inside the parliamentary chamber as well as on the street, over the law "to suppress acts of political violence" demonstrated that the present political setup is just not working. The tens of thousands of trade unionists, students and young gangsters parading and screaming outside the Diet building were perhaps a less conclusive symbol of collapse than what went on within: the activist squads of Socialist deputies physically conquering the presidential tribune; the "secretaries" (as the bodyguards are politely termed) of the deputies cursing and fighting each other; the Socialist deputy cutting his clothes to shreds and using the remnants as a rope to prevent the opening of the door through which the President (Speaker) was supposed to enter in order to open the session officially; the ancient President (Kiyose) being carried in, trembling with fear, by tough young conservative deputies; the farce of the motion announced as carried without any attempt at determining whether a quorum was present or counting the vote. The end would seem near for the doctrinaire "model democracy" which the American Occupation, bedeviled by a combination of idealism, naiveté and leftwing trickery, imposed on Japan fifteen years ago in complete disregard of Japanese tradition, culture and material conditions.

Evian. It has begun to occur to one or two of the French delegates to the conference with GPRA (Provisional Government of Algerian Republic—i.e., the political committee of the FLN) that there is a significant parallel between this meeting on Algeria and the Geneva meeting on Laos. In both cases the Western side imposed on itself a cease-fire in the field in order "to create a suitable atmosphere for negotiations." In both cases the anti-Western side has paid no attention to the cease-fire, but has continued to advance its power position: in Laos, by taking outright control of more and more territory; in Algeria and France by a stepped-up campaign of assassination and "plastics" (bombings). Two questions are insistently suggested: How can the West hope to gain by talk what it fails to win in the field? Does the basic identity between the FLN and the Pathet Lao tactical methods indicate that a Communist hand is now guiding the former, as it has long guided the latter?

Cairo. During the past month a sharp debate has been going on between the official press of this city and of Moscow over the question of the treatment of Communists and Communist parties in the UAR and the Arab nations more generally. *Trud*, *Pravda* and other Moscow journals denounce the "odious campaign" against the Arab Communists and "the lies of certain Cairo newspapers which are at the level of the most miserable lucu-

brations of the reactionary propaganda of the West." Nasser's *Al Missawar* answers indignantly with the demand that Moscow "be satisfied with UAR's neutrality and halt the activities of the Communist parties in Arab countries." The conflict here explains why the November Manifesto of the 81 Communist Parties included freedom of action for Communists as part of the definition of "nationalist democracy." The Manifesto declared that the UAR, unlike Cuba, was not yet a "true" nationalist democracy because of the absence of this condition.



Vicky, London Evening Standard

"This little piggy went to the Common Market, this little piggy stayed at home . . ."

Brussels. While economists and ideologues continue to argue about the comparative Growth Rates of Russia and the United States, the fabulous economic development of the six nations of the European Common Market continues to surpass both by a wide margin. In the eight years from 1952 to 1960 the steel production of the Six increased by no less than 75% (from 41.8 to 73.5 million tons). This has been accompanied by an actual decrease in the total number of workers employed in the industry, as well as in the number of working hours. In the report that presented these figures, Rolf Wagenführ, chief of the Common Market's statistical services, also noted that the deepening integration of the six nations' economies was decreasing the cyclical drops in the business cycle, tending to equalize prices, wages, etc. throughout the Common Market, and speeding the automation and rationalization of both industrial and business methods.

Bangkok. Tiny three-wheeled taxis, rather like the motorized golf carts used in America, have now replaced all the pedicabs, which in their day ousted the man-pulled rickshaws. The taxis, like so many of the products now entering into the economies of Southeast Asia, are made in Japan. In Manila, Saigon, Taipei, Rangoon, Kuala Lumpur, the Japanese economic expansion is dramatically evident: in every sort of instrument and appliance, radios, TV sets, cameras, iceboxes, electrical appliances of all kinds; in machinery, tools, heavy capital equipment; in purchase of rice, sugar, fruits, minerals; in capital investments flowing into industry, transportation and mining.

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